

# CITY OF DEL REY OAKS

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**City of Del Rey Oaks  
Responses & Findings  
To the 2000 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Report  
*Domestic Violence Report***

**Findings:**

1. *All 12 police stations as well as the Sheriffs Department, were in general compliance with the 1996 Grand Jury Recommendation that domestic violence information be readily available. However, the type of materials offered varied widely at each location, as did the level of accessibility visitors had to the information.*

**Information is available to the general public at the Del Rey Oaks City Hall during business hours. This information is updated and enhanced as new information becomes available from a variety of sources. Domestic violence information is clearly marked and available in many languages.**

2. *Based on data gathered by the 2000 Grand Jury, a relatively small number of citizens picked up domestic violence materials at police stations. Walking into police stations may be intimidating to many individuals who are in need of information. The Grand Jurors were further informed by most jurisdictions that officers responding to a domestic violence call always carry written information about a victim's legal rights and available resources for assistance. Unfortunately, by the time officer responds to a domestic violence call, the brochure provided at the incident is after the fact.*

**We agree that a very small number of citizens walk into the police departments and obtain domestic violence information. We also agree that many times officers are called to the scene of domestic violence incidents, and information is provided after the fact, but we believe law enforcement is doing everything it can to disseminate the information.**

**Domestic Violence information should be available at every public building, including State and Federal office building. As an example, DMV and U.S. Post Offices probably have the largest number of daily visitors in California. Leaflets could also be placed in mailings that are routinely sent out by government agencies.**

3. *Some smaller community police stations and the Sheriffs sub-stations do not have Seven-day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day access to provide availability of materials. One small Monterey Peninsula police station provided 24-hour-a-day access to domestic violence materials through a covered receptacle located outside the station. Civilian staff at the station reported this receptacle is replenished more frequently than the one inside.*

**We have studied this issue, and at this time have no plans to place an outside receptacle at City Hall for Domestic Violence information.**

4. *Not all law enforcement agencies claimed to have a special unit or specific officer in charge of domestic violence, but each indicated that most officers were trained in domestic violence issues.*

**All members of the Del Rey Oaks Police Department have received POST certified training of Domestic Violence Response and Investigation, as well as training from the Monterey County District Attorney's Office and the Rape Crisis Center.**

5. *Children of all ages from all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds may routinely witness domestic violence in their homes. The California Attorney General's Office publication, "Domestic Violence Handbook – A Survivor's Guide" (p. 7), reports that, "While domestic violence is not hereditary, it has been shown to be learned behavior and is often handed down from one generation to the next." Physical assault within the family can become accepted as a normal part of life and may not even be recognized as a crime by some men and women. Children from these homes need help in developing life management skills that may prevent them from becoming abusers or the abused in their teen or adult life.*

**We agree that education and the development of life skills is the "key" to not being a victim or abuser. We should encourage our schools to assist us in this type of education and development for our youth.**

6. *The Correctional Training Facility at Soledad donated the first printing of the domestic violence information brochure created by the Council. At that time, the brochures were distributed in quantity to law enforcement agencies and related non-profit service providers. In addition to an initial stock of brochures, each agency was to be provided a camera-ready master to be used to replenish the supply as needed within each individual organization. The Coordinating Council is a non-funded agency and, as such, has no budget for printing and distributing brochures on a regular basis. Therefore, it becomes the responsibility of each distributing agency to provide copies of the brochure.*

**We still have a large supply of the original brochure, and will provide a camera-ready master when re-printing is required.**

#### **Recommendations:**

1. *Each police station and the Sheriff's Department review its policies and procedures to ensure the availability of, and easy access to, domestic violence information for the general public. Further efforts be made to standardize the compliance criteria among law enforcement departments to meet the requirements of the Penal Code to a far greater extent.*

**We agree.**

2. *Law enforcement agencies, domestic violence resource agencies, and the Board of Supervisors through the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council of Monterey County; look for additional sites to distribute domestic violence information. To the degree possible, considering resources available, the 2000 Grand Jury supports increased effort in making information available at locations such as walk-in clinics, drug store*

*pharmacy counters, post offices, libraries, and other suitable venues visited by local citizens on a regular basis. Such availability could increase the probability of getting information into the right hands before serious domestic violence problems develop or escalate.*

**We agree.**

3. *Police stations that do not have 24-hour inside access to available materials provide an outside receptacle such as a metal box protected display rack clearly marked to contain domestic violence information. As some may feel too intimidated to enter the police station to request information, an outside container may provide increased access to all segments of society.*

**We some what agree, but believe that the individual agency should access the need, and determine the feasibility of such a container.**

4. *While not all police stations are large enough to have a specific unit dedicated to domestic violence, one officer be designated and trained as the expert on domestic violence. Such an expert could oversee ongoing training of the police force and offer detailed attention to the important issue of domestic violence.*

**We agree.**

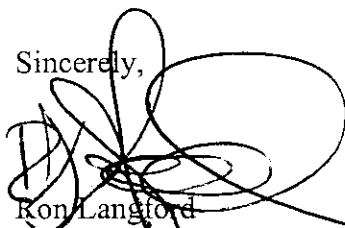
5. *Existing programs that educate children about domestic violence be emphasized and expanded to protect and reach more of them at an earlier age to help break the cycle of violence. Programs that focus on strengthening interpersonal relationships and developing a capacity for tolerance and respect for self and others are needed at every grade level within our community schools. The 2000 Grand Jury further recommends law enforcement officers use their interactions with school-age children as opportunities to include advice and counsel on the subject of domestic violence.*

**We strongly agree.**

6. *Each police station, Sheriff's Department and sub-stations, and all other agencies providing the Council's domestic violence brochure as a resource verify the availability of an adequate supply. In addition, each site should determine that a master copy was, in fact, received, is available, and is not, contact the Council to obtain a new master to ensure a future supply of brochures.*

**We agree.**

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Langford', is written over the printed name and title.

Ron Langford  
Acting City Manager / Chief of Police  
3/19/01